

Save money with thermostat settings

Your thermostat controls about half of your energy bill.

You can save money and energy by managing your thermostat settings.

How much can I save?

An average MGE customer can save about \$40 to \$100 per heating season with recommended thermostat settings. If you have central air-conditioning, savings of \$10 to \$30 per cooling season are typical.

What settings* are recommended for saving energy?

Settings for saving energy		
Away	Winter	Summer
	 55°F	 85°F
Home 	 68°F*	 78°F
Sleep 	 58°F*	 78°F

*If health permits.

If you've had problems with freezing pipes, correct the problem before turning down the thermostat.

Also check the owner's manual if turning down the temperature for more than 24 hours.

Find your preferred settings

If the recommended settings seem too uncomfortable, experiment with smaller adjustments until you find what works for you. For instance, try setting the temperature a degree or two cooler than your current setting in winter. Keep experimenting to find the balance between comfort and saving energy that works for you.

Caution: Talk to your doctor about any health problems (or medications) that may require temperatures different from the recommended settings. Older adults are more likely to lose body heat, leading to a serious problem called hypothermia. For more information, visit <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/stay-safe-cold-weather/what-hypothermia>.

Two common myths

- "It costs as much or more to heat a home back up after a setback or to cool the house after a summer setup."
- Fact:** The longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you save. (If the average temperature difference between indoors and outdoors is smaller, less heat is needed.) If you were leaving for a week, you'd set back the temperature, so why not for shorter time periods?
- "The house will warm up faster the higher the thermostat is raised."
- Fact:** The thermostat isn't like the gas pedal on a car. It's either calling for heat or not, so setting the thermostat too high may cause you to overshoot the desired temperature, costing you more.

(continued on reverse side)

Manual setback

You can get good savings adjusting the thermostat by hand, but it can be inconvenient. You may forget to change the temperature at bedtime or when leaving the house. Some people don't like waiting for the house to warm up after turning up the heat.

Programmable (automatic setback) thermostats

A programmable (automatic setback) thermostat offers comfort and convenience.

It can turn on the heat before you get out of bed in the morning or before you come home in the evening. A setback thermostat also never forgets to change the temperature.

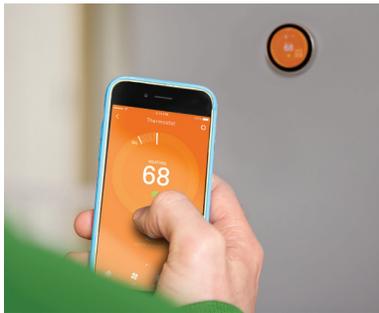


Smart thermostats

Don't like programmable thermostats? Want more convenience and control? A smart thermostat may be right for you.

Smart thermostats allow you to:

- Remotely control the temperature in your home from a smartphone, tablet or computer.
- Enable energy-saving settings more easily. Some models learn your preferences, and most guide you through the process of choosing temperature settings.



For more info, visit

<https://www.mge.com/smartthermostats>

Installation

Some people install thermostats themselves using the instructions that come with the thermostat. Some prefer to hire a heating contractor to do the installation.

Special heating systems

Heat pumps, electric heaters and boilers may require special thermostats, so check for compatibility first.